

Amendments of the Claims:

1. - 6. Cancelled

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~[[6]]~~ 28 wherein said 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin before it is mixed with any water is in the form of granules having a compression strength of at least about 15 pounds per inch and wherein said granules are devoid of any binder or other component tending increase the compression strength of the granules.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to any of Claims ~~1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7~~ 26, 27, 28, 29 or 7 wherein said animal is poultry, swine, sheep, or cattle.

9. Cancelled

10. (Currently Amended) The improvement according to ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 30 wherein said at least one animal is poultry, swine, sheep, or cattle.

11. (Currently Amended) The improvement according to ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 30 wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide in said drinking water is in the range of about 1 to about 100 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

12. (Currently Amended) The improvement according to ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 30 wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide in said drinking water is in the range of about 4 to about 30 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

13. - 15. Cancelled

16. (Currently Amended) The improvement according to ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 30 wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide results from use of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin as the microbiocide that is mixed with water.

17. (Currently Amended) The improvement according to ~~any of Claims 13, 14, 15, or 16~~ any of Claims 30, 10, or 16 wherein said at least one animal is fowl, swine, sheep, or cattle, and wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide in said drinking water is in the range of about 1 to about 100 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

18. (Currently Amended) The improvement according to ~~any of Claims 13, 14, 15, or 16~~ Claim 17 wherein ~~said at least one animal is fowl, swine, sheep, or cattle, and~~ wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide in said drinking water is in the range of about 4 to about 30 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

19. - 22. Cancelled

23. (Currently Amended) The improvement according to Claim 32 ~~Claim 19~~ wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide results from use of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin as the microbiocide that is mixed with water.

24. (Currently Amended) The improvement according to either of Claims 32 or 23 ~~any of Claims 19, 20, 21, 22, or 23~~ wherein said at least one animal is poultry, swine, sheep, or cattle, and wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide in said drinking water is in the range of about 1 to about 100 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

25. (Currently Amended) The improvement according to Claim 24 ~~any of Claims 19, 20, 21, 22, or 23~~ wherein ~~said at least one animal is poultry, swine, sheep, or cattle, and~~ wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount ~~of halogen-based microbiocide in said drinking water~~ is in the range of about 4 to about 30 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

26. (New) A method of reducing fecal contamination in an animal, which method comprises providing to the animal drinking water containing a microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide resulting from mixing with water at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin in which one of the alkyl groups is a methyl group and the

other alkyl group contains in the range of 1 to about 4 carbon atoms.

27. (New) A method according to Claim 26 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin in the form of solids or as a water solution or slurry formed from said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, is mixed with water and optionally the water mixture is further diluted one or more times with water, to provide said microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide in said drinking water.

28. (New) A method according to Claim 26 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin before it is mixed with any water is 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

29. (New) A method according to Claim 26 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin before it is mixed with any water is a mixture of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin and 1,3-dibromo-5-ethyl-5-methylhydantoin.

30. (New) In the processing of at least one animal for at least one meat product, the improvement which comprises reducing fecal contamination in said at least one animal prior to slaughter, which method comprises providing to the animal as its exclusive or substantially exclusive source of drinking water during a period prior to slaughter, drinking water containing a microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide resulting from mixing with water at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin in which one of the alkyl groups is a methyl group and the other alkyl group contains in the range of 1 to about 4 carbon atoms.

31. (New) The improvement according to Claim 17 wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount of halogen-based microbiocide in said drinking water is in the range of about 4 to about 50 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

32. (New) A method of preparing drinking water for animals to be processed for at least one meat product, the improvement which comprises introducing into said drinking

water a microbiocidally-effective amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin in the form of solids or as a water solution or slurry formed from said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein before introduction into any water said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin has a methyl group as one of its alkyl groups and an alkyl group containing in the range of 1 to about 4 carbon atoms as its other alkyl group.

33. (New) The improvement according to Claim 24 wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount is in the range of about 4 to about 50 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

34. (New) A method for reducing fecal contamination in animals to be processed for at least one meat product, which method comprises:

- A) preparing drinking water for said animals by introducing into said water a microbiocidally-effective amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin in which one of the alkyl groups is a methyl group and the other alkyl group contains in the range of 1 to about 4 carbon atoms to form microbiocidally-treated drinking water; and
- B) providing microbiocidally-treated drinking water from A) to said animals prior to processing said animals for at least one meat product.

35. (New) A method according to Claim 34 wherein said at least 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

36. (New) A method according to either of Claims 34 or 35 wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount is in the range of about 1 to about 100 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

37. (New) A method according to Claim 36 wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount is in the range of about 4 to about 50 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.

38. (New) A method according to Claims 36 wherein said microbiocidally-effective amount is in the range of about 4 to about 30 ppm (wt/wt) expressed as Br₂.